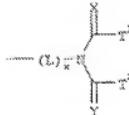


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

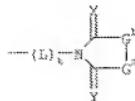
1. (Previously Presented) A polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit wherein the H atom of the hydroxy group of the phenolic monomeric unit is replaced by a N-imide group Q having the structure



wherein L is a linking group, wherein k is 0 or 1, wherein L is covalently bound to the O atom of the polymer when k is 1, or wherein the N atom of the N-imide group is covalently bound to the O atom of the polymer when k is 0, wherein X or Y are independently selected from O or S, and wherein T¹ and T² represent a terminal group.

2. (Original) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the terminal groups T¹ and T² are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein T¹ and T² together with the N-imide group represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure, or wherein T¹ and T² represent the following structures -L¹-R¹ and -L²-R², wherein L¹ and L² represent independently a linking group, wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -CN, or -NO₂, or therein two groups selected from each L¹, L², R¹ and R² together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

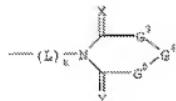
3. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein G¹ and G² are independently selected from O, S, NR³ or CR⁴R⁵, with the limitation that G¹ is not O or S when G² is O and that G¹ is not O or S when G² is NR³, wherein R⁴ and

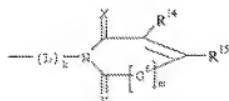
R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^3-R^6$, wherein L^3 is a linking group, wherein R^3 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and L^3 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

4. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein G^3 to G^5 are independently selected from O, S, NR⁷ or CR⁸R⁹, with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G^3 to G^5 , is CR⁸R⁹ and that two neighboring groups, selected from G^3 to G^5 , are not represented by O and S, by O and NR⁷, by S and NR⁷ or by O and O, or wherein G^4 is a linking group, wherein R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^4-L^{10}$, wherein L⁴ is a linking group, wherein R⁷ and R¹⁰ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and L⁴ together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

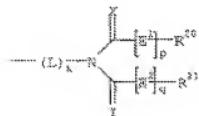
5. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein G^6 is a group selected from O, S, NR¹¹ or CR¹²R¹³, wherein m is 0 or 1, wherein R¹² to R¹⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^5-R^{16}$,

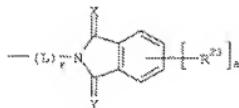
wherein L⁵ is a linking group, wherein R¹¹ and R¹⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and [[L⁵]] L⁵ together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

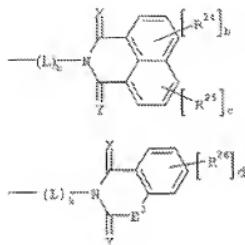
6. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein E¹ and E² are independently selected from O, S, NR¹⁷ or CR¹⁸R¹⁹, wherein p and q are independently 0 or 1, wherein R¹⁸ to R²¹ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or -L⁶-R²², wherein L⁶ is a linking group, wherein R¹⁷ and R²² are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

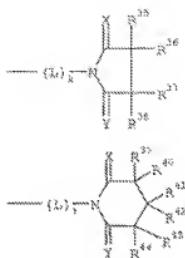
7. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:





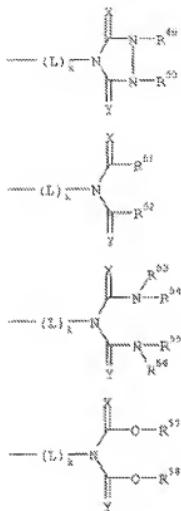
wherein each R²³ to R²⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -SO₂-NH-R²⁷, -NH-SO₂-R³⁰, -CO-NR²⁷-R²⁸, -NR²⁷-CO-R³⁰, -NR²⁷-CO-NR²⁸-R²⁹, -NR²⁷-CS-NR²⁸-R²⁹, -NR²⁷-CO-O-R²⁸, -O-CO-NR²⁷-R²⁸, -O-CO-R³⁰, -CO-O-R²⁷, -CO-R²⁷, -SO₃-R²⁷, -O-SO₂-R³⁰, -SO₂-R²⁷, -SO-R³⁰, -P(=O)(-O-R²⁷)(-O-R²⁸), -O-P(=O)(-O-R²⁷)(-O-R²⁸), -NR²⁷-R²⁸, -O-R²⁷, -S-R²⁷, -CN, -NO₂, -N(-CO-R²⁷)(-CO-R²⁸), -N-phthalimidyl, -M-N-phthalimidyl, or -M-R²⁷, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R²⁷ to R²⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R³⁰ is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein a and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, wherein E³ is selected from O, S, NR³¹ or CR³²R³³, wherein R³² and R³³ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or -L⁷-R³⁴, wherein L⁷ is a linking group, wherein R³¹ and R³⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

8. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



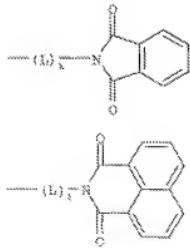
wherein R³⁵ to R⁴⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -SO₂-NH-R⁴⁵, -NH-SO²-R⁴⁸, -CO-NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -NR⁴⁵-CO-R⁴⁸, -NR⁴⁵-CO-NR⁴⁶-R⁴⁷, -NR⁴⁵-CS-NR⁴⁶-R⁴⁷, -NR⁴⁵-CO-O-R⁴⁶, -O-CO-NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -O-CO-R⁴⁸, -CO-O-R⁴⁵, -CO-R⁴⁵, -SO₃-R⁴⁵, -O-SO₂-R⁴⁸, -SO₂-R⁴⁵, -SO-R⁴⁸, -P(=O)(O-R⁴⁵)(-O-R⁴⁶), -O-P(=O)(-O-R⁴⁵)(-O-R⁴⁶), -NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -O-R⁴⁵, -S-R⁴⁵, -CN, -N-(CO-R⁴⁵)(-CO-R⁴⁶), -N-phthalimidyl, -M-N-phthalimidyl, or -M-R⁴⁵, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R⁴⁵ to R⁴⁷ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, and wherein R⁴⁸ is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

9. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



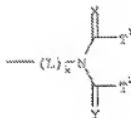
wherein R⁴⁹ to R⁵⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, and wherein R⁵⁷ and R⁵⁸ are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

10. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



11. (Previously Presented) A polymer according to claim 1, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

12. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support having a hydrophilic surface and an oleophilic coating [[,]] provided on the hydrophilic surface, said coating comprising an infrared light absorbing agent and a polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit wherein the H atom of the hydroxy group of the phenolic monomeric unit is replaced by a N-imide group Q having the structure



wherein L is a linking group, wherein k is 0 or 1, wherein L is covalently bound to the O atom of the polymer when k is 1, or wherein the N atom of the N-imide group is covalently bound to the O atom of the polymer when k is 0, wherein X or Y are independently selected from O or S, and wherein T¹ and T² represent a terminal group.

13. (Original) A lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

14. (Currently Amended) A lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 13, wherein said dissolution inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of an organic compound which comprises at least one aromatic group and a hydrogen bonding site,

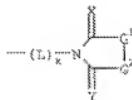
a polymer or surfactant comprising siloxane [[or perfluoroalkyl]] or perfluoroalkyl units, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

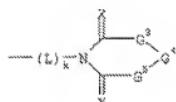
17. (Canceled)

18. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein G¹ and G² are independently selected from O, S, NR³ or CR⁴R⁵, with the limitation that G¹ is not O or S when G² is O and that G¹ is not O or S when G² is NR³, wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or -L³-R⁶, wherein L³ is a linking group, wherein R³ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and L³ together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

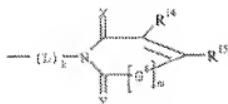
19. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein G³ to G⁵ are independently selected from O, S, NR⁷ or CR⁸R⁹, with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G³ to G⁵, is CR⁸R⁹ and that two neighbouring groups, selected from G³ to G⁵, are not represented by O and S, by O and NR⁷, by S and NR⁷ or by O and O, or wherein G⁴ is a linking group, wherein R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl,

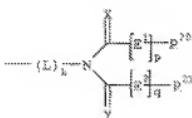
heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^4-L^{10}$, wherein L^4 is a linking group, wherein R^7 and R^{10} are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and L^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

20. (Previously Presented) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



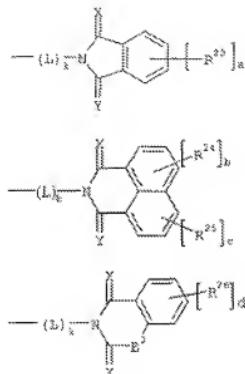
wherein G^6 is a group selected from O, S, NR¹¹ or CR¹²R¹³, wherein m is 0 or 1, wherein R¹² to R¹⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^5-L^{16}$, wherein L⁵ is a linking group, wherein R¹¹ and R¹⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and L⁵ together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

21. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



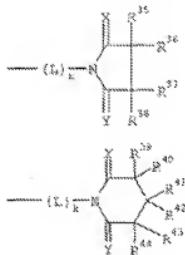
wherein E¹ and E² are independently selected from O, S, NR¹⁷ or CR¹⁸R¹⁹, wherein p and q are independently 0 or 1, wherein R¹⁸ to R²¹ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or $-L^6-R^{22}$, wherein L⁶ is a linking group, wherein R¹⁷ and R²² are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

22. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



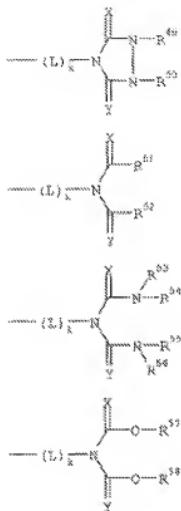
wherein each R²³ to R²⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -SO₂-NH-R²⁷, -NH-SO₂-R³⁰, -CO-NR²⁷-R²⁸, -NR²⁷-CO-R³⁰, -NR²⁷-CO-R²⁹, -NR²⁷-CS-NR²⁸-R²⁹, -NR²⁷-CO-O-R²⁸, -O-CO-NR²⁷-R²⁸, -O-CO-R³⁰, -CO-O-R²⁷, -CO-R²⁷, -SO₃-R²⁷, -O-SO₂-R³⁰, -SO₂-R²⁷, -SO-R³⁰, -P(=O)(-O-R²⁷)(-O-R²⁸), -O-P(=O)(-O-R²⁷)(-O-R²⁸), -NR²⁷-R²⁸, -O-R²⁷, -S-R²⁷, -CN, -NO₂, -N(-CO-R²⁷)(-CO-R²⁸), -N-phthalimidyl, -M-N-phthalimidyl, or -M-R²⁷, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R²⁷ to R²⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R³⁰ is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein a and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, wherein E³ is selected from O, S, NR³¹ or CR³²R³³, wherein R³² and R³³ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or -L⁷-R³⁴, wherein L⁷ is a linking group, wherein R³¹ and R³⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

23. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



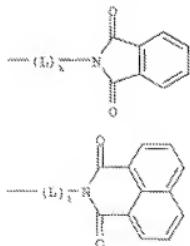
wherein R³⁵ to R⁴⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -SO₂-NH-R⁴⁵, -NH-SO²-R⁴⁸, -CO-NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -NR⁴⁵-CO-R⁴⁸, -NR⁴⁵-CO-NR⁴⁶-R⁴⁷, -NR⁴⁵-CS-NR⁴⁶-R⁴⁷, -NR⁴⁵-CO-O-R⁴⁶, -O-CO-NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -O-CO-R⁴⁸, -CO-O-R⁴⁵, -CO-R⁴⁵, -SO₃-R⁴⁵, -O-SO₂-R⁴⁸, -SO₂-R⁴⁵, -SO-R⁴⁸, -P(=O)(O-R⁴⁵)(-O-R⁴⁶), -O-P(=O)(-O-R⁴⁵)(-O-R⁴⁶), -NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -O-R⁴⁵, -S-R⁴⁵, -CN, -N(-CO-R⁴⁵)(-CO-R⁴⁶), -N-phthalimidyl, -M-N-phthalimidyl, or -M-R⁴⁵, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R⁴⁵ to R⁴⁷ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R⁴⁸ is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

24. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



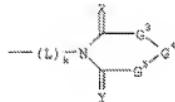
wherein R⁴⁹ to R⁵⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, and wherein R⁵⁷ and R⁵⁸ are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

25. (Withdrawn) A polymer according to claim 2 wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



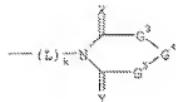
26. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the terminal groups T¹ and T² are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein T¹ and T² together with the N-imide group represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure, or wherein T¹ and T² represent the following structures -L¹-R¹ and -L²-R², wherein L¹ and L² represent independently a linking group, wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -CN, or -NO₂, or therein two groups selected from each L¹, L², R¹ and R² together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

27. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



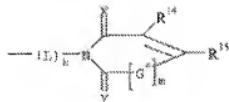
wherein G³ to G⁵ are independently selected from O, S, NR⁷ or CR⁸R⁹, with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G³ to G⁵, is CR⁸R⁹ and that two neighboring groups, selected from G³ to G⁵, are not represented by O and S, by O and NR⁷, by S and NR⁷ or by O and O, or wherein G⁴ is a linking group, wherein R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or -L⁴-L¹⁰, wherein L⁴ is a linking group, wherein R⁷ and R¹⁰ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and L⁴ together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

28. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



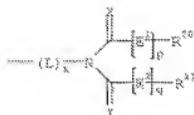
wherein G³ to G⁵ are independently selected from O, S, NR⁷ or CR⁸R⁹, with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G³ to G⁵, is CR⁸R⁹ and that two neighboring groups, selected from G³ to G⁵, are not represented by O and S, by O and NR⁷, by S and NR⁷ or by O and O, or wherein G⁴ is a linking group, wherein R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or -L⁴-L¹⁰, wherein L⁴ is a linking group, wherein R⁷ and R¹⁰ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and L⁴ together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

29. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



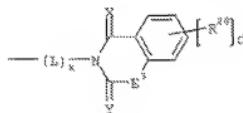
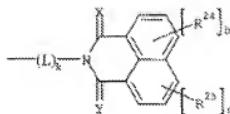
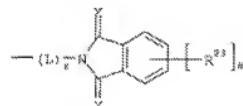
wherein G⁶ is a group selected from O, S, NR¹¹ or CR¹²R¹³, wherein m is 0 or 1, wherein R¹² to R¹⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or -L⁵-R¹⁶, wherein L⁵ is a linking group, wherein R¹¹ and R¹⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein two groups selected from each R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and L⁵ together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

30. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has the following formula



wherein E¹ and E² are independently selected from O, S, NR¹⁷ or CR¹⁸R¹⁹, wherein p and q are independently 0 or 1, wherein R¹⁸ to R²¹ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group or -L⁶-R²², wherein L⁶ is a linking group, wherein R¹⁷ and R²² are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

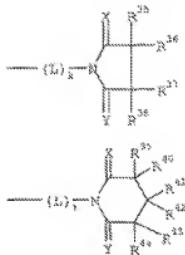
31. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



wherein each R²³ to R²⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -SO₂-NH-R²⁷, -NH-SO₂-R³⁰, -CO-NR²⁷-R²⁸, -NR²⁷-CO-R³⁰, -NR²⁷-CO-R²⁸-R²⁹, -NR²⁷-CS-NR²⁸-R²⁹, -NR²⁷-CO-O-R²⁸, -O-CO-NR²⁷-R²⁸, -O-CO-R³⁰, -CO-O-R²⁷, -CO-R²⁷, -SO₃-R²⁷, -O-SO₂-R³⁰, -SO₂-R²⁷, -SO-R³⁰, -P(=O)(-O-R²⁷)(-O-R²⁸), -O-P(=O)(-O-R²⁷)(-O-R²⁸), -NR²⁷-R²⁸, -O-R²⁷, -S-R²⁷, -CN, -NO₂, -N(-CO-R²⁷)(-CO-R²⁸), -N-phthalimidyl, -M-N-phthalimidyl, or -M-R²⁷, wherein M represents a divalent linking group

containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R²⁷ to R²⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R³⁰ is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein a and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, wherein E³ is selected from O, S, NR³¹ or CR³²R³³, wherein R³² and R³³ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or -L⁷-R³⁴, wherein L⁷ is a linking group, wherein R³¹ and R³⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

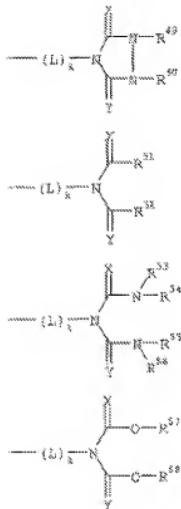
32. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula:



wherein R³⁵ to R⁴⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -SO₂-NH-R⁴⁵, -NH-SO₂-R⁴⁸, -CO-NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -NR⁴⁵-CO-R⁴⁸, -NR⁴⁵-CO-NR⁴⁶-R⁴⁷, -NR⁴⁵-CS-NR⁴⁶-R⁴⁷, -NR⁴⁵-CO-O-R⁴⁶, -O-CO-NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -O-CO-R⁴⁸, -CO-O-R⁴⁵, -CO-R⁴⁵, -SO₃-R⁴⁵, -O-SO₂-R⁴⁸, -SO₂-R⁴⁵, -SO-R⁴⁸, -P(=O)(O-R⁴⁵)(O-R⁴⁶), -O-P(=O)(O-R⁴⁵)(O-R⁴⁶), -NR⁴⁵-R⁴⁶, -O-R⁴⁵, -S-R⁴⁵, -CN, -N(-CO-R⁴⁵)(CO-R⁴⁶), -N-phthalimidyl, -M-N-phthalimidyl, or -M-R⁴⁵, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R⁴⁵ to R⁴⁷ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl

group, wherein R⁴⁸ is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

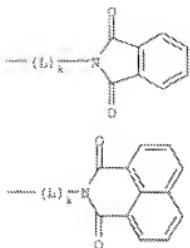
33. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula;



wherein R⁴⁹ to R⁵⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

and wherein R⁵⁷ and R⁵⁸ are independently selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

34. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein the N-imide group Q has one of the following formula;



35. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 26, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

36. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 27, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

37. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 28, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

38. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 29, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

39. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 30, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

40. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 31, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

41. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 32, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

42. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 33, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

43. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 34, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

44. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 26, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

45. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 27, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

46. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 28, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

47. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 29, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

48. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 30, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

49. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 31, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

50. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 32, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

51. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 33, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

52. (Withdrawn) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 34, wherein said coating further comprises a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.